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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,859	08/01/2005	Jacobus Maria Mathijs Bogers	53022/DBP/A394	6400
23363	7590	06/18/2007		
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 7068			ROSS, DANA	
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3722	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/501,859

Applicant(s)

BOGERS, JACOBUS MARIA
MATHIJS

Examiner

/Dana Ross/

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-15 and 19-46 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/8/07; 8/1/05; 7/16/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 16-18 in the reply filed on 23 May 2007 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-15 and 19-46 are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 2,852,410 (Brewer) in view of US Pat. No. 5,666,714 (Height et al.).

Brewer teaches an article supporting structure 7 of the any form well known in the art (see col. 2, lines 37-40, for example) which moves on a conveyor 6 to lower articles from the conveyor into respective tanks, including a flux tank 3 and galvanizing tank 4 (see col. 2, lines 32-34 and figure 1, for example).

Brewer also teaches the use of pickling tank 1 and rinse tank 2.

Brewer does not disclose the use of one or more shot blasters.

Examiner notes that the use of shot blasters is well known in the art.

Height teaches a method of manufacturing galvanized steel including shot blasting at a plurality of blasting angles and the fluxing and galvanizing of steel (see col. 3, lines 63-67 and figure 1, for example).

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Height does not disclose the use of an overhead track with suspension elements for transferring the steel between stations or that the casing of the shot blaster are adjustable when the objects is within the casing.

Examiner takes official notice that that the use of shot blasting on a track conveyor for surface treatment of workpieces is well known in the art as evidenced by US Pat. No. 3,813,817 (Haberlin).

Examiner takes official notice the shot blasting device of Height includes a casing for the shot blasters and that it is well known in the art that the shot blasting process includes the use of a casing with an entrance and exit opening for the object being blasted as is evidenced by US Pat. No. 2,584,647 (Webber).

It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the overhead conveyor 6 of Brewer to include the well known use of one or more shot blasters for the purpose of removing scale on different sides of a piece of steel and to eliminate the steps of pickling and rinsing and to increase the quality of the steel being manufactured.

4. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 5,666,714 (Height et al.) in view of US Pat. No. 2,852,410 (Brewer).

Height teaches a device for manufacturing galvanized steel including shot blasting at a plurality of blasting angles and the fluxing and galvanizing of steel (see col. 3, lines 63-67 and figure 1, for example).

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Height does not disclose the use of an overhead track with suspension elements for transferring the steel between stations or that the casing of the shot blaster are adjustable when the objects is within the casing.

Examiner takes official notice that that the use of shot blasting on a track conveyor for surface treatment of workpieces is well known in the art as evidenced by US Pat. No. 3,813,817 (Haberlin).

Examiner takes official notice the shot blasting device of Height includes a casing for the shot blasters and that it is well known in the art that the shot blasting process includes the use of a casing with an entrance and exit opening for the object being blasted as is evidenced by US Pat. No. 2,584,647 (Webber).

Brewer teaches an article supporting structure 7 of the any form well known in the art (see col. 2, lines 37-40, for example) which moves on a conveyor 6 to lower articles from the conveyor into respective tanks, including a flux tank 3 and galvanizing tank 4 (see col. 2, lines 32-34 and figure 1, for example).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the generic transfer mechanism of Height to include the specific use of an overhead track as taught by Brewer for the purpose of providing an immersion device that will withstand a longer use time and therefore decrease the cost of parts in the galvanizing process.

Additionally, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the casing adjustable since it has been held that broadly providing a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity which has accomplished the same result involves only routine skill in the art. In this instance, the conveyor of the workpiece to the

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sandblasting device would provide for greater flexibility in the pieces being blasted through the use of an adjustable casing for varying sized workpieces.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Dana Ross/ whose telephone number is 571-272-4480. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dana Ross/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3722

/DMR/